

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 215712

FOR AMBASSADOR SCRANTON

CORRECTED COPY - TEXT OMITTED

FOLLOWING REPEAT DHAHRAN 1098 ACTION SECSTATE JIDDA GENEVA
29 AUG 1976

QUOTE UNCLAS DHAHRAN 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT CASES: AL-NAJDI CARRYING REFUGEE FAMILY.
OF NGUYEN LAI

REF: STATE 212392

1. AL-NAJDI ARRIVED RAS TANURA EVENING OF AUGUST 28 AND WAS
VISITED BY CONGENOFF AT DAWN AUG. 29AS SHIP IS CARRYING 19
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. CAPTAIN HAS TELEX FROM SHIP'S OWNERS INDICATING
THAT CANADA WILLING TO TAKE THIRTEEN OF THESE REFUGEES, BUT HAS NO
DETAILS OF HOW THEY ARE TO GO TO CANADA OR WHERE THEY ARE TO
BE DOCUMENTED. NONE OF THE REFUGEES HAVE ANY TRAVEL
DOCUMENTS. IN INTERVIEW, MOTHER IN NGUYEN
LAI FAMILY OF SIX TOLD CONGENOFF THAT UPE IS SISTER OF THREE
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MENTIONED IN REFTEL. MOTHER AND ELDEST DAUGHTER HAVE IDENTITY

CARDS MADE OUT BY FORMER VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. FAMILY DOES NOT WISH TO SETTLE IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND FAMILY WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE CLAIM TO THIRD PRIORITY PAROLE STATUS TO U.S. ON BASIS OF MOTHER'S RELATIONSHIP TO THREE IN U.S. ONLY OTHER CONNECTION TO US IS FACT THAT FATHER OF FAMILY WORKED FOR VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN LIBRARY FOR UNSPECIFIED PERIOD IN 1965.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT: URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON LIKELY USG ATTITUDE TOWARD SIX VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WITH CLAIM TO THIRD PRIORITY PAROLE STATUS WHO ABOARD SAUDI FLAG SHIP IN SAUDI PORT. FYI: IN SIMILAR CASE LAST YEAR SAG REFUSED TO PERMIT REFUGEES TO EVEN

COME ASHORE UNLESS USG GUARANTEED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. WE FEAR THAT SAG RESPONSE WILL BE SIMILAR IN THIS SITUATION. SHIP'S CAPTAIN BECOMING RATHER IRRATIONAL AND IS TALKING OF PUTTING REFUGEES BACK OVERBOARD IN THE GULF IN BOAT IN WHICH HE FOUND THEM. CAPTAIN STATES HE HAS HAD THE 19 VIETNAMESE ONBOARD FOR 15 DAYS, HAS NOT RECEIVED USEFUL GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OR ANYONE ELSE DURING THAT TIME, CAN NOT LEGALLY CARRY THAT NUMBER, AND DOES NOT HAVE FOOD OR SPACE TO DO SO. SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO SAIL AT 1500 LOCAL TIME (0800 WASHINGTON) TODAY, AUGUST 29, FOR DAS ISLAND WITH POSSIBLE ONWARD VOYAGE TO GENOA.

3. FOR JIDDA: REQUEST THE EMBASSY TELEPHONE SHIP'S OWNERS, REDEC COMPANY, AND DETERMINE STATUS OF THAT COMPANY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FM SAG FOR REFUGEES TO LAND. REQUEST EMBASSY TELEPHONE CANADIAN EMBASSY TO DETERMINE HOW REFUGEES BOUND FOR CANADA WILL BE DOCUMENTED AND STATUS CANADIAN EFFORTS TO PERMIT THEIR DISEMBARKATION HERE. BUSHNELL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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